

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 EB-07

AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 /104 W

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R 100305Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8356

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AORG, SREF, UNRWA

SUBJ: UNRWA IN 29TH GA - SPC DEBATE WRAP-UP

REF: USUN 5801

1. UNRWA DEBATE CONCLUDED IN SPC WITH ADOPTION FIVE RESOLUTIONS (REFTEL). LAST YEAR'S "SELF-DETERMINATION" RESOLUTION AND UNHELPFUL BAROODY FINANCIAL DRAFTS AND AMENDMENTS NOT PRESENTED THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS DID NOT SPEAK ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT FINANCING RESOLUTION (L. 318), THEY CLEARLY NOT HAPPY WITH IT.

2. PLO REP SAADAT HASAN APPEARED FOR FIRST TIME IN UN COMMITTEE IN NEW STATUS OF OBSERVER. LAST YEAR PLO AND PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE ON INVITATION OF SPC, BUT THIS YEAR PLO WAS ONLY NON-STATE REPRESENTED AT DEBATE. ALTHOUGH HASAN BEGAN HIS STATEMENT BY CONGRATULATING UNRWA LEADERSHIP, BODY OF HIS REMARKS
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WAS PREDICTABLY HARD LINE. HE DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM

UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT, SAYING THAT WAS UN PROBLEM.
THUS EARLIER SPECULATION THAT IN VIEW OF ENHANCED STATUS
AT UN PLO MIGHT BE WILLING TO LEND ITS SUPPORT IN FUND
RAISING EFFORT FOR UNRWA, HAS THUS FAR PROVED UNFOUNDED.

3. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL RENNIE INFORMED SPC THAT
46 GOVERNMENTS HAD MADE PLEDGES THIS YEAR TOTALLING
\$56.4 MILLION. ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED, BUT
HIS BEST ESTIMATE WAS THAT DEFICIT FOR 1975 REMAINED AT
ABOUT \$40 MILLION. UK REP TOLD MISOFF HE DOES NOT
ANTICIPATE EXTRA CONTRIBUTION FROM UK TO HELP OVERCOME
DEFICIT, AND EEC AS GROUP UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING IN
VIEW OF LACK OF RESPONSE TO FUND RAISING APPEAL FROM
IL-RICH ARABS. IN HIS INITIAL STATEMENT AT SPC, RENNIE
SAID REDUCTIONS IN SERVICES AND RATIONS REQUIRED TO
ELIMINATE DEFICIT WOULD IN HIS VIEW BE DEVASTATING TO
UNRWA, BUT NEVERTHELESS WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 1975
IF ADEQUATE NEW FUNDS NOT FOUND. RENNIE NOW IN EUROPE
ENROUTE TO BEIRUT. UNRWA LIAISON OFFICER INFORMED MISOFF
HE BELIEVES RENNIE WILL INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF
ANTICIPATED REDUCTIONS BEFORE END OF DECEMBER AND SOON
THEREAFTER WILL CALL MEETING OF ADVISOR COMMISSION FOR SAME
PURPOSE.

4. DESPITE FACT THAT "QUESTION OF PALESTINE" HAD
JUST BEEN DEBATED IN PLENARY, MOST THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES
FOCUSSED THEIR SPC STATEMENTS ON ATTACKING ISRAEL, RATHER
THAN ON HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF UNRWA.
TRADITIONAL ARAB ATTITUDE REGARDING PALESTINIANS AND
UNRWA AS STRONG AS EVER: I.E. WESTERN COUNTRIES CREATED
PROBLEM AND HENCE IT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO SOLVE IT.
THIS INCLUDES PAYING LION'S SHARE OF UNRWA'S COSTS. FEW
SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND ENORMITY OF PROJECTED 1975 DEFICIT,
AND MOST APPARENTLY BELIEVE US AND WESTERN EUROPEANS WILL
AGAIN COME TO RESCUE AT ELEVENTH HOUR. LEBANESE,
JORDANIAN AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES
SEEMED PERSONALLY AWARE OF MAGNITUDE OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL
PROBLEM, BUT THIS DOES NOT APPARENTLY TRANSLATE INTO
PROGRESS TOWARD LOOSENING OIL-RICH ARAB PURSE STRINGS.
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